



HABILITAS
foundation



A New Waiting Room and Reception at the Mackay Site

Giving children with disabilities
a brighter future at the MAB-Mackay

GOAL:
\$400,000



“There is nothing more heartbreaking for a parent than seeing your child struggle. This is a reality of life every day for Eytan and for us.

The MAB-Mackay became a place I could share both my joy and my fears. I felt heard and understood. Most importantly, we were well taken care of.”

- Samara, mother of 2-year old Eytan

Thanks to the MAB-Mackay, more than 1,000 babies, children and teenagers with physical disabilities can reach their full potential.

The birth of a new baby brings hope and joy.

But for parents of an infant with physical and sensory impairments, the journey is quite different.

Advances in modern medicine have made it possible to save babies born prematurely, or with complications in the womb or during delivery. While the hospitals are saving these babies' lives, many are left with physical impairments and medical issues that will stay with them for their entire lives, and for which there are no cures.

Imagine not being able to hold your baby, to provide comfort, to feed or bond with them. Not knowing what the future holds for your child or family.

Nothing can prepare a parent for the everyday challenges of raising a special needs child.

For more than 100 years, the MAB-Mackay has provided hope and support for these children through a wide range of services, personalized to the unique needs of each child through all stages of their development.

The Centre's strength is the interdisciplinary, collaborative and holistic therapy approach to helping the child unlock their full potential. This way, the children can do more, and go further.

The Centre equally supports the parents and family, accompanying them on their journey, and giving them tools and valuable support.

The MAB-Mackay is the only centre in Montreal that specializes in the four areas of physical impairment (motor, vision, hearing, and language) for children with one integrated team.



A Second Home for children and parents

Families who first visit the MAB-Mackay with their baby or child are in a very fragile state. After the shock of having a child diagnosed with a physical disability, they face a rollercoaster of difficult emotions. They've been through countless medical appointments, genetic tests, and consultations over what the future holds for their child.

The MAB-Mackay supports them along their journey with understanding and strategies to foster their child's development.

The centre's Mackay Site on Décarie in NDG is visited by more than 1,000 children with motor impairments or communication disorders, as well as those with multiple physical disabilities.

Many also visit for evaluations in the Early Intervention Clinic (for global developmental delays or autism spectrum disorder), for botox injections and occupational therapy in the Saliva Management and Dysphagia clinics, for fittings or repairs in the Wheelchair Department, as well as for the upper extremity and gait clinics. The facility also serves an additional 200 teenagers and young adults each year.

The therapies, evaluations and interventions that await at the Mackay involve a lot of concentration and hard work, for the child and the parents.

In many cases, these therapies are intensive in nature and require repeat visits over several months and many years, as the multi-disciplinary team helps to nurture the child's developmental goals and build upon successes, as small and incremental as they may seem.



First impressions make a real difference

Children feel particularly anxious in settings that are institutional, especially if they've endured difficult medical experiences at hospitals previously – as most of the children of our centre have.

A welcoming, child-friendly environment sets a tone of joy and wonder that primes the child to participate actively in the rehabilitation process to follow.

Our vision is to transform the main waiting area at the Mackay Site and create a warm, fun, immersive and humanizing environment.

One that the children can embrace and that will distract them from their stresses.

One that truly reflects the positivity, hope and opportunity that drive the therapy sessions while offering increased privacy and dignity.



Benefits

Research literature demonstrates that patient-centred healing environments have direct effects on the treatment process and results.

The new convivial reception will significantly improve therapy outcomes by reducing the anxiety of children and parents, and promoting their engagement in the rehab process.

With this welcoming, lively, and comforting atmosphere, children are more likely to view the facility as a fun place that is less threatening and be more willing to receive treatment.

In addition, it will promote staff pride, retention, and performance – factors that have a direct impact on quality of care.

Overall, we are providing more children and families with an enhanced experience which will promote autonomy, dignity, functionality, and quality of life.



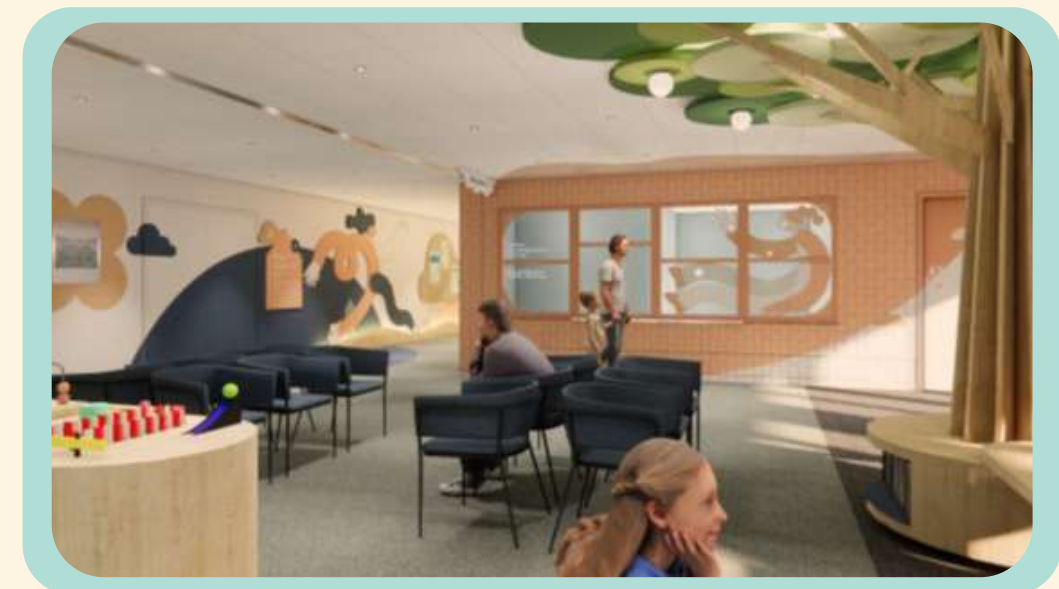
Design Concepts

This project entails a complete re-imagining of the current space, incorporating child-friendly visuals and colour pallet that will be engaging, warm, and to scale for the children.

The design will focus around an interactive activity centre, with different components to promote play and distraction. It will also incorporate bright coloured murals stretching down the corridor to the elevators, creative new lighting, as well as directional signage.

The new arrangement will offer ample space for wheelchair parking and circulation, in addition to comfortable seating options for children of all ages as well as parents (and siblings)

Finally, the arrangement will provide enhanced line of sight to the receptionist's office, for better safety and security for families.



“Im so excited to see the Mackay reception area revamped and updated!

A newly renovated reception will create a warm and welcoming environment where kids, parents, siblings and community partners can look forward to visiting.

As in our work, we maintain the clients and their families at the heart of everything we do.



Ensuring the environment is accessible and inclusive for all the children we support is paramount.

We hope to create a calm and uplifting atmosphere to await therapy, where kids can be kids and have fun playing. The design will breathe new life into the centre, positively impacting the morale of the clients, as well as the staff..”

- Gillian Fuchs MSc.A OT,
Occupational Therapist,
MAB-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre



You can help us make this transformative new environment a reality, and create a unique place of hope, happiness and growth for so many children with disabilities and their families.

The Habilitas Foundation, the official foundation of the MAB-Mackay, is championing this project that will give opportunity, independence and a brighter future to so many of the most vulnerable children in our community.

Please show your support today.

For more information on how you can make a difference, visit us at

www.habilitas.ca